

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 92-105 are currently pending. Of these, claims 100-105 are allowed, and claim 97 is "objected to".

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Office Action includes various rejections of claims 92-96, 98 and 99 in view of Ishikawa (JP 11-88260) either by itself or in combination with other references.

The Abstract of Ishikawa discloses that a fixed dispersion compensator 16 with a fixed dispersion amount performs a rough dispersion compensation, and a variable dispersion compensator 18 with a variable dispersion amount performs a precise dispersion compensation.

In addition, paragraph [0011] of Ishikawa discloses that a DCF provided with dispersion having a sign opposite to that of the dispersion in a SMF, or a fiber grating dispersion compensator in which a Bragg grating is formed in the fiber core to provide negative dispersion, are available as the fixed dispersion compensator 16. Paragraph [0012] of Ishikawa discloses that a PLC dispersion compensator, or the one in which the dispersion amount is varied by providing a stress gradient or temperature gradient to a fiber grating, are available as the variable dispersion compensator 18. Please note that an IDS was filed concurrently herewith to provide an English translation of paragraphs [0011] and [0012] of Ishikawa.

However, as shown by broken line 73 in FIG. 7 and described on page 13, lines 7-13, of the present application, a DCF provided with dispersion having a sign opposite to that of the dispersion in a SMF does not have a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over plurality of wavelengths. Moreover, curve 102 in FIG. 10 of the present application shows an additional example of the wavelength dispersion characteristic of a DCF. As can be seen from these portions of the present application, a DCF does not have a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths. Please note that curve 103 in FIG. 10 of the present application shows an example of a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Ishikawa does not disclose a first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths as recited, for example, in claim 92.

The cited reference Yoshimura relates to an apparatus for compensating for dispersion in

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a submarine optical amplification and transmission system. The cited reference Bergmann relates to an apparatus for compensating for misalignment of optical components in optical packages. It is respectfully submitted that these references are not directed to embodiments of the present invention as recited in the rejected claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

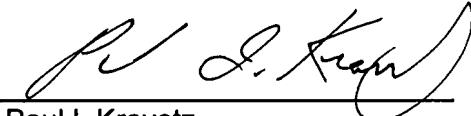
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:


Paul I. Kravetz
Registration No. 35,230

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501